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GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

A TREATY OF PEACE.

BY JAMES WOOD.

Address at the Mohonk Arbitration Conference.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—We have brought the consideration of this question to a very practical point; we are advocating a movement to put upon paper an arrangement that, because of the force of precedent, already practically exists. The British government and that of our country have established a precedent of settling their disputes by arbitration; the burden of proof now is on the other side, to break the line of precedent. The moral and legal status is in favor of arbitration to-day; and this force of precedent is even more binding upon the British government than upon our own.

I cannot conceive an issue arising between the two governments which would result in an appeal to arms. First, because of precedent; second, because of the force of public opinion,—and the British government is more sensi-

tive to public opinion than our own. We may have a Congress that does not represent public opinion upon some great question; the executive branch of our government may go on for four years in direct opposition to the opinion of the people; but in Great Britain the government must be in accord with the people, or a change immediately occurs.

We are often misled by what we think to be public opinion, because of the expressions in the public press. But many of the utterances of the public press are not really signs of the public opinion of the country, but of a wish to influence votes, and so to appeal to the passions of some particular nationality in the community. Much of the outcry against Great Britain in our papers has been for the purpose of influencing the Irish voters who are presumed to be opposed to British policy at all times and in all places.

Again, it is impossible to conceive of a resort to arms between these two countries, because of the fact that the sober judgment on both sides of the Atlantic would condemn it. First, and from the lowest standpoint, because Great Britain knows that it would be impossible for her to defend Canada, and we know that it would be impossible for us to defend our seaboard cities from the British navy; there would be everything to lose and nothing to gain. If there are any sensible people in this world, I believe a goodly proportion of them belong to the Anglo-Saxon race, and I believe that race has not fools enough to undertake such a thing. Then, as we get to a higher plane, there comes in the public sentiment of the masses of the people, which is opposed to it. On a still higher plane, these are two Christian nations, and in the gradual evolution of the true doctrines of our Saviour they are lifted to a plane too high to violate His commands, especially when it comes to slaying our brethren. I do not believe we need a treaty of arbitration in order to settle all disputes between Great Britain and the United States.

But we are advocating peace throughout all the world, and what can we do to further that end? We can conceive of no influence so impressive as for the world to see the great English-speaking peoples formally agreeing to settle all their disputes in this way. The world knows, notwithstanding all race feeling, that the English-speaking people are soon to rule the world. Thoughtful men of

all countries see that in the present century those who speak the French language have decreased by six to eight per cent. ; that those who speak the German language are only eight per cent. more than they were ; but that those who speak the English language are nearly two hundred per cent. of what they were at the beginning of the century. When we look at the map of the world, we can see what has sprung from that little handful of men that occupied the island of Great Britain in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when colonies first began to be planted throughout the world. It is the wonderful thing in modern history. And another thing, we take all races of men and bring them into the Anglo-Saxon household, and they come not only to speak the English language but to adopt the Anglo-Saxon habit of thought and view questions from the Anglo-Saxon standpoint ; until after two generations in America you cannot find the line of distinction between the descendants of other peoples and the descendants of our own ancestors. The great mold in this country is the public school. The public school educates the child from every nation on the earth and stamps a character upon him. It is the great power, not only for molding our people but preserving our nationality.

I was brought up very strictly after the manner of the Quakers, and thought that all war was wrong. But when I went to a public school, and mingled with my associates there, I gradually got an idea that, while what my mother said must be true, there was one exception,—it would be not only right, but a duty, to fight England, seven days in the week if necessary. That was the public sentiment of the country when I was a boy ; gentlemen, you remember it. It was simply because many of the men who fought in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 were still living. You cannot find a public school in America where that sentiment exists to-day.

We want to promote our great object by giving to it the combined influence of English-speaking people before the world. And as all the world knows that in another century English-speaking people must rule the world they will be glad to fall into line, and keep step with the procession which they see is moving round the world. Fortunately the German nation is so closely allied with the English-speaking nations in blood and in habit of thought that Germany would of necessity be the first nation to fall into line. Russia is—Russia, and nothing else ; nobody can generalize on Russia. Nobody can generalize on France, because of the peculiar temperament of the French people, and because of the present irritation, which it will take one or two generations to remove, in reference to Alsace-Lorraine. But with Russia and France eliminated, I can see no reason why a treaty between the government of Great Britain and the United States should not result in the very early acceptance of a similar treaty by Germany, by Norway, by Sweden, by Denmark, by Italy, possibly by Spain, and thus we would see our

dream accomplished,—not our dream, but our earnest hope and trust.

Judge Earl said last evening that he thought this would come, but that its coming was very remote. I think that it will come, and come with a rush. The public sentiment of Germany is just ripe for it. I have been among that people. Social position in Germany is dependent largely upon military rank, and those ambitious of social position favor the war system ; but below them, the great mass of the German people are but of one mind in this matter. To me the situation is most hopeful.

How can we promote peace ? The proposition for a committee to go to the government is a wise one. We want to attack the government at the head, and then we want to attack it at the tail. The way to get things through a legislative body is simply to go for the members of that body. When a man is in Congress, he always wants to be re-elected. He may get a letter from a constituent urging a certain measure and not pay much attention to it ; he gets a second on the same subject, and he says, " What does this mean ? " he gets a third, and a fourth, and he finds out what it means and votes accordingly. That is the way we are to attack the government from the other end. If each of this little company will use his influence on friends and acquaintances throughout the land, and get two or three thousand letters written to members of Congress in the next year, we shall have this thing passed through the House of Representatives, and our government actively promoting the great object we desire.

THE MASSACRE OF CHINESE MISSIONARIES.

Christians, everywhere, have been horrified, during the past month, by the intelligence of the massacre of English missionaries and their families at Ku-Cheng, in China, and by violent assaults and injuries directed against other missionaries, both British and American, in various parts of the Empire. A dozen lives have been thus sacrificed by fire, spearing, and throwing down precipices. Also a large amount of property has been destroyed. These outrages are the work of violent fanatics, and in particular of a body called Vegetarians, who, although they are under obligation, by oath, not to make food of any living creature, but to eat only plants and vegetables, are stated by their countrymen, to be a most bloodthirsty band.

These events have naturally caused general indignation at home, and have given rise to abundant and still continuing discussions in the press, in regard to the whole policy of missions, and of those to the Chinese, in particular. And these discussions have brought into prominence certain facts which possess a special interest for the friends of the peace cause.

In the first place, it is thus shown that a large proportion of the missionaries in China, both men and